

EXMOUTH
Urban District Council.

Annual Report

For 1925,

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS,

Sanitary Work, &c.,

— BY —

CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. OAMB., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

EXMOUTH :

PRINTED BY W. J. DELDERFIELD & SONS, MARKET STREET.

EXMOUTH
Urban District Council.

Annual Report

For 1925,

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS,

Sanitary Work, &c.,

— BY —

CLARENCE BEESLEY,

D.P.H. CAMB., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

EXMOUTH :

PRINTED BY W. J. DELDERFIELD & SONS, MARKET STREET.

REPORT.

Redvers, Exmouth,

March 30th, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Exmouth Urban
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the annual report for 1925. It is a "survey" report, that is to say, a report containing more detailed information than that furnished by the usual annual report, and the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health require such a report to be issued every five years. The subjects dealt with fall under the following main heads :—

- 1.—Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.
- 2.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.
- 3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- 4.—Housing.
- 5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- 6.—Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious Diseases.
- 7.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 5,295.

Estimated population (1925), 13,240.

The physical features and general character of the area are as follow :— The town is situated upon the Eastern shore of the Estuary of the Exe. The greater part of the town stands upon the slope of a hill facing South West, the higher portion rising to an elevation of 200 feet above sea level. The soil of the higher parts of the town rests on marl, overlying the new red sandstone, having a gentle slope to the sea, the lower part on sand and alluvial deposit. The climate is remarkable for its equability and sunshine is

abundant. The annual rainfall is probably the lowest on the South Devon coast. In fact, Exmouth is a flourishing and increasingly popular health resort, ideal as a place of residence for old people, persons returning home from hot climates and children.

The number of inhabited houses (1921) was 3,264, and the number of families or separate occupiers (1921) was 3,483.

The rateable value is £86,579, and the sum represented by a penny rate £361.

Fishing, the building trade, brickmaking, boat building and the letting of apartments are the principal occupations.

VITAL STATISTICS.

DEATHS.—162 deaths were registered during the year, 74 being males and 88 females, the death rate being 12.2 per 1,000, as compared with 14.4 per 1,000 in 1924 and 18.3 England and Wales.

BIRTHS.—146 children were born, 67 males and 79 females, producing a birthrate of 11.0 per 1,000, against 11.9 per 1,000 in 1924 and 18.3 England and Wales. Five births were illegitimate, 2 males and 3 females.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Eight infants died under one year of age—5 males and 3 females, all legitimate—the infant mortality being 54.7, as compared with 57.3 in 1924 and 75 for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.—There are no Tuberculosis, Maternity, Children's, Fever or Small-pox Hospitals in the district, but the town possesses a well-equipped Cottage Hospital of 16 beds, with an up-to-date X-ray installation. It is supported by voluntary contributions, and patients are charged a nominal sum for maintenance and treatment.

THE EXMOUTH DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION, also supported by voluntary contributions, is greatly appreciated,

a fact which is borne out by the number of visits paid during the twelve months, viz., 6,446, and the maternity cases attended, 128.

THE DISPENSARY continues its good work amongst the poor, as evidenced by the fact that 305 patients were treated during the year, of whom 175 were cured, 129 benefited, and one died.

There is no FEVER HOSPITAL in the district. Infectious cases are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital (distant 11 miles) under an agreement with the Exeter City Council, expenses, or a proportion thereof, being recovered from the patients where their means permit.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The district possesses a modern motor ambulance, for non-infectious and accident cases. Infectious cases are removed to Whipton by ambulance provided by the Exeter City Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—The nearest centre for the treatment of these diseases is Exeter, and certain days are appointed for males and females respectively.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

1. The Medical Officer of Health (part time)—C. Beesley, D.P.H. (Camb.)—who also holds the posts of M.O.H. to the Budleigh Salterton Urban District Council, and to the Exeter Port Sanitary Authority.
2. The Sanitary Inspector—Mr. James Wilson—(whole time)—who holds the following certificates :—
 - (a) Sanitary Inspector.
 - (b) Meat and Foods.
 - (c) Advanced Building Construction.
 - (d) Inspector of Hackney Carriages and Petroleum Stores.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—Much help is given in this direction by the nurses attached to the Nursing Association. No special provision for nursing has been made in the case of infectious diseases, e.g., measles.

MIDWIVES.—Three practise in the district. They are under the control of the Devon County Council.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE AREA.

The adoptive Acts and Bye-laws in force in the district with the dates of their adoption, are as follow :—

- (1) Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890—October 15th, 1892.
- (2) Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890—February 3rd, 1892.
- (3) Private Street Works Act, 1892—April 3rd, 1895.
- (4) Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907—July 1st, 1908.

New Streets and Buildings, approved 12th June, 1923

Water, Prevention of Waste or Contamination of, approved 4th April, 1904.

Slaughter Houses, approved 30th July, 1901.

Nuisances from the Keeping of Animals, approved 18th September, 1896.

Pleasure Grounds, Manor Grounds and Strand Enclosure, approved 26th September, 1900.

Pleasure Grounds, Phear Park and Beach Gardens, approved 24th January, 1911.

Pleasure Grounds, Beach Gardens Extension, approved 8th November, 1913.

Pleasure Grounds, Plantation and Madeira Walks, approved 21st October, 1922.

Pleasure Grounds, Promenade and Esplanade, approved 13th July, 1923.

Public Bathing, approved 10th April, 1911.

Ditto Ditto, approved 18th July, 1911.

Regulation of Seashore, approved 21st November, 1911.

Pleasure Boats and Vessels, approved 1st October, 1920.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER.

The district is supplied with an abundance of pure potable water from two sources (1) the borehole at Dotton, (2) the watershed at East Budleigh and Bicton Common. Chemical and bacteriological analyses of these two waters

are made twice a year by the County Analyst, and his reports are invariably satisfactory. The last report is as follows :—

EXMOUTH WATER SUPPLY.

HIGH AND LOW LEVEL RESERVOIRS.

I beg to enclose particulars of the results of analysis and bacteriological examination of the two samples of water labelled as above, which I received from you on the 17th of March last.

There is no important variation in the constitution of either of the two samples. The purity is in each case highly satisfactory.

ANALYSIS OF EXMOUTH WATER.

(Parts per hundred thousand).

	Low Level	High Level
Bacteria in 100 cub. centimetres—		
Bacillus Coli Communis	Not more than 5	Not more than 5
Streptococcus	None	None
Chlorine as Chlorides	2.6	2.6
Nitrogen as Nitrites	0	0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.015	0.013
Phosphates	0	0
Total hardness	6.2	6.0
Temporary hardness	1.2	1.3
Permanent hardness	5.0	4.7
Saline Ammonia	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0054	0.0024
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.13	0.12
Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron	0	0
Total Solid Constituents	5.4	8.0
Organic Matter observed in igniting the Solid Constituents	None	None

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The only streams in the district are the Withycombe Brook and the Littleham Brook.

The latter is polluted by the waste water drainage from seven cottages at Littleham, and, apparently, the only effectual remedy for this will be to extend the sewerage system to Littleham village, which, however, will entail considerable expense. The Council has had this matter under consideration for some time, and I hope that a satisfactory solution of the difficulty will soon be forthcoming.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage of the district is quite satisfactory, the water carriage system being universal.

The high level sewer has a good fall and is self cleansing. From a low level area the sewage is pumped up to the high level, whilst for the intermediate area a middle level sewer serves and is kept flushed by a series of flushing tanks, each containing 10,000 gallons. All the sewers converge to a common submerged outlet discharging into the sea at ebb tide.

The system works well, but with the continued growth of the urban area, it is evident that extensions and some enlargement will soon be required.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Practically the whole of the houses are provided with water closets fitted with flushing cisterns. There are only a few cottages in the rural area which have earth closets.

SCAVENGING is carried out by direct labour, house refuse being removed twice a week in the summer months, and once weekly otherwise, but perishable refuse from fish shops, &c., is removed daily.

3,850 tons were removed and burnt in the "Meldrum" destructor, the heat generated being utilised by the boilers of an adjacent brickworks. An inspection is being made of the condition of the ashbins throughout the district. So far the arrangements at 2,500 houses have been inspected and 861 notices issued and 800 new bins provided.

**TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR.**

	No.	No. of inspections
Premises visited	854	
New Drains	7	25
Drains repaired	54	120
Nuisances abated	121	248
Animal nuisances abated	3	10
W.C.'s re-constructed	56	125
Disinfection of bedding (lots).....	30)	106
Disinfection of houses	23)	
Disinfection of public elementary schools		
4 times each	8	32
Common lodging houses	1	12
Railway Station lavatories	2	24
Slaughter houses	6	832
Food Shops		270
Bakehouses	23	65
Dairies and cowsheds	58	128
Ashbins provided	800	1600
House roofs repaired	13	50
House yard paving repaired	38	114
House walls and floors repaired	17	51
House other repairs	11	30
Workshops	105	72
 Total inspections		<hr/> 3914 <hr/>
 Number of Statutory notices served		16
Number of informal notices served (general)		113
Number of informal notices served (ashbins)		579
 Total notices served		<hr/> 708 <hr/>

SMOKE.—As there are few factories in the district, complaints as to smoke nuisances from factories or workshops are very infrequent, and none were received during the year, although complaints are occasionally made of smoke from the chimneys of private dwelling houses and also from bonfires used for the burning of garden refuse, neither of which is included within the provisions of the Public Health Acts.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.—There are no premises or occupations in the district controlled by bye-laws or regulations.

There is no need for regulations in respect of underground sleeping rooms (Housing Act, 1925, 18 (1)).

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.—During the summer when many visitors were present the accommodation provided by the public conveniences was found to be inadequate. An additional convenience for males and females is now in course of erection in Exeter Road. The proposed provision of this necessary adjunct to the town caused considerable friction and some alternative sites were indicated by opponents of the scheme. The matter was exhaustively investigated by an inspector from the Ministry of Health, and the originally selected site met with his unqualified approval. When the work is completed I do not think there will be any cause for complaint either from the general public or from those living in the immediate vicinity.

SCHOOLS.—All the schools are supplied with water from the public supply, and the sanitary conditions are good.

All the public elementary schools are sprayed with disinfectant solution at each holiday. There is no provision for drainage at the Littleham school. This would be remedied if and when the sewers are extended to the village. As previously remarked, this would entail considerable expense, and the matter is still in the controversial stage.

HOUSING.

I.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(1) The general standard of housing in the district is

satisfactory. Some few houses should be closed, but the difficulty of finding alternative accommodation for the displaced tenants has proved insuperable at the present time. This state of affairs will be remedied when the houses which are being erected under the Council's schemes are completed.

(2) (a) There is a decided shortage of houses for the working classes, and the number required is probably about 200.

(b) The Council has built 15 houses in Hamilton Road, eight at Littleham are nearing completion, and 50 more are in hand upon the Marpool site, whilst an additional site at Cranford is also being purchased.

Houses to let at £26 to £30 per year are also being built by private enterprise.

99 new houses were erected during the year, of which 22 were subsidised.

(3) No important changes in population have taken place, and none are anticipated.

II.—OVERCROWDING.

(1) In many cases two or even three families are living in one house, and in some instances a family are limited to one room. It has been possible in a few cases to improve matters by some re-arrangement of rooms amongst the occupants. The rooms as a rule are of a fair size, with a good airspace, but such conditions are very undesirable.

(2) CAUSES. The shortage of houses.

(3) MEASURES TAKEN FOR DEALING WITH OVERCROWDING are the building of more houses.

(4) PRINCIPAL CASES OF OVERCROWDING DURING 1925. Some overcrowding occurs during the summer months due to the influx of visitors. This state of affairs is neither easy to detect nor remedy, and is common to most popular seaside resorts. When the housing scheme adopted by the Council is completed I do not think there will be much cause for complaint in this direction.

III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

(1) (a) The general standard of housing is fairly good. There are some houses which should be closed, and this will be done when other premises are available for the displaced tenants.

(b) The principal defects found are :—Defective roofs ; dampness arising from the want of damp-proof courses in the walls and of concrete over the site ; defective flushing, floors and yard paving.

(c) Most defects arise from ordinary wear and tear, although some occupiers are somewhat destructive.

(2) GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES UNDER (a). Inspection is made and an informal notice sent to the owner as to any defects requiring attention. Usually these receive attention in due course, but if not a statutory notice is served.

(b) No action has been taken under the special Housing Acts.

(3) No special difficulties in remedying unfitness either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925, have been found. There are no back to back houses in the district.

(4) The conditions so far as regards water supply and closet accommodation are satisfactory. Many of the receptacles for house refuse are defective. A general survey is in hand and suitable iron bins with lids are being provided where necessary.

IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS. No complaints have been received or representations made, and no action has been necessary in regard to unhealthy areas.

V.—BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC. :—

(1) There are no existing bye-laws.

(2) No new bye-laws are required

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new-houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	99
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts,	
(i) By the Local Authority	15
(ii) By other bodies or persons	7

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	217
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	71

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	62
---	----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	Nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	9
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil.
C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) MILK SUPPLY.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are 58 dairies and cowsheds registered under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1922, and the same are regularly inspected.

Some of the cowsheds are of a primitive type of building, and in some cases the old and unsatisfactory pebble paving and gutters still exist, but improvements are gradually being effected, and the majority are now fairly well paved with concrete or bricks. The sheds are limewashed twice yearly, and are kept reasonably clean, but the condition of the farm yards leaves much to be desired.

Some progress has been made in the cleanliness of milk producing methods, but further improvement is desirable. Clean hands, and the use of clean washable overalls and caps for milkers, the partial clipping and grooming of cows, the use of a simple steam sterilizing apparatus for the milk vessels, &c., are of great importance in milk production.

The highest grade of milk, "certified milk," is now procurable in the district. In the production and distribution of this milk great precautions are taken to prevent contamination either by dirt or germs. The maximum number of bacteria permitted in "certified milk" is 30,000 per cubic centimetre. This seems an enormous number, but in ordinary milk a sample containing a million bacteria would not necessarily be bad milk, and many samples contain from four to five millions.

(1) No action has been necessary in the case of tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

(2) One licence was granted to a retail dealer to sell certified milk, but the sale has ceased and the licence has lapsed.

Certified milk is produced and sold in the district under a licence from the Ministry of Health.

(3) No licence or registration has been refused or revoked.

(4) Thirteen samples of certified milk were sent for bacteriological examination, the number of bacteria per

1 c.c. varying from 1,500 to 8,733, with an average of 3,648.

(b) MEAT.

(1) Meat inspection is regularly carried out. Notice is given of the times when slaughtering is to be done and this enables an inspection to be made at the time of slaughter, but no system of marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, has yet been adopted.

Sixty-six lots of diseased meat were surrendered and destroyed; tuberculosis was found in six cattle and in six pigs, the remainder being parasite diseases. One bullock carcase, and various parts of carcases and organs were destroyed in the refuse destructor.

(2) The shops, stores and vehicles are satisfactory. Most of the shops have glass fronts, or moveable glass shutters. There are no meat stalls in use. Glass fronts should be compulsory.

(3) There is no public slaughter-house in the district.

The provision of a public abattoir, wherein the whole of the work could—in time—be concentrated, and where the slaughtering would be carried out under proper conditions, and during specified hours, so that all the carcases could be officially examined at the time of slaughter, would be a great sanitary improvement, a safeguard to the public, a convenience to some of the butchers, and an economy to the trade as a whole.

	Number of slaughter-houses in 1920	In Jan., 1925	In Dec., 1925
Registered	5	5	5
Licensed	1	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	6	6	6
	—	—	—

The slaughter-houses are in fair structural condition.

Four of those registered are situated in the centre of the town, and their position is unsatisfactory. The other two are situated in the rural area.

Four slaughter-houses used by Exmouth butchers are situated outside the Urban District.

(c) Places where food is prepared and sold, including the beach stalls, and places where ice-cream is prepared were inspected. (Places where ice-cream is made for sale should be registered).

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 23 bakehouses, and these are limewashed at intervals of six months, and are kept reasonably clean. Most of them are in good structural condition, but in one or two of the older premises the conditions are not quite satisfactory, but the circumstances render it difficult to effect improvements.

One bakehouse was repaired during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The chief notifiable infectious diseases which have occurred in the area during the last five years are scarlatina (mild type), diphtheria, pneumonia, chicken pox, and three cases of encephalitis lethargica, of which one proved fatal. No case of enteric fever was notified, but there was one of paratyphoid fever, probably due to the consumption of cockles. The subjoined table shows the number of cases notified in years 1920 to 1925.

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Cases	36	26	50	45	134	53

The increase of cases in 1924 was due to a widespread epidemic of chicken pox, which was still active in the district until June, 1925. Measles, a non-notifiable disease, was prevalent also, and necessitated the closure of some schools. Prompt notification of infectious diseases is the rule, and a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is always available, gratuitously provided in necessitous cases. Pathological and bacteriological examination of specimens when required

is undertaken by the County Authorities, without charge in approved cases. The arrangements for isolation have been mentioned, and disinfection of premises is carried out on the death or removal of a patient. This procedure is also adopted in cases of cancer and tuberculosis.

No "return cases" or "carrier cases" have been detected.

The Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlatina respectively have not, to my knowledge, been used, or the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Influenza was responsible for five deaths—all males—in 1925.

Up to the present time, no verminous persons or their belongings have come under my notice. If such cases arise their clothes, etc., will be treated in the Rietz steam apparatus, working at 238° F, and the premises disinfected by fumigation or spraying with formalin, as in other cases of infectious disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1925).

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admit'd to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	nil.	nil.	nil.
Scarlet Fever	6	3	nil.
Diphtheria	2	nil.	nil.
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid	1	1	nil.
Puerperal Fever	nil.	nil.	nil.
Pneumonia	6	nil.	5
Chicken Pox	34	nil.	nil.
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	nil.

It is highly probable that the notification of every case of pneumonia arising in the district has been omitted and a communication has been sent to all the doctors practising in the district, calling their attention to the provisions of the Act in connection therewith.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Male	Fem'le	Male	Fem'le	Male	Fem'le	Male	Fem'le
0				2				
1				1				
5								
10								
15		2	1					
20								
25	2	1			2	2		nil.
35		1						
45								
55	1							
65 upwards								
Totals...	3	4	4	2	2	3	nil.	1

Periodical inspections are made of all premises concerned in the production, handling or distribution of milk, and any case of illness amongst employees, etc., is investigated with a view to the detection of tuberculosis. So far, no action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No action was taken by the Council under this Section during 1925.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Great progress has been made in the general arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and mothers and of children under five years of age. The

numbers attending the Centre increased to such an extent that more commodious premises were required. Rooms were obtained at a reasonable rent in All Saints' Institute, conveniently situated in the most populous part of the district. They are large, well ventilated and heated, and adequate accommodation is provided for the mothers, the weighing of babies and the doctor. In addition, there is a small room in which tea is prepared. The cost of running the centre is shared by the Local Authority and Devon County Council. The Centre is opened once a week, from 2.30 to 4.30, and the mothers take a keen interest in all that pertains to it. Useful addresses are given on mothercraft and kindred subjects, as well as medical advice in the case of infants and toddlers. Ante-natal hygiene receives due attention, lectures being given by Miss Berry, but the subject of birth-control has not been introduced. Milk is gratuitously supplied to nursing mothers and children in deserving cases, and certain proprietary products at specially reduced prices. Our best thanks are due to all concerned in the work, for the energy they have displayed in making the Centre such an unqualified success.

The following figures will give some idea of the work done during the year ending December 31st, 1925 :—

Number of mothers attending, 163.

Number of new babies registered, 59.

Total number of attendances, 2,227.

Average attendance per week, 48.5.

Blanket Club, £35 12s. 6d.

Savings Club.—31 members are paying in weekly.

Competitions.—11th place gained in the National Mothercraft Competition held in June. Honours certificate in mothercraft, and 2nd class certificates in knitting, needle-work and renovating.

A jumble sale in May realised £12 15s. 6d. for the General Fund.

Attention may be drawn to the fact that no cases of puerperal fever or other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition occurred during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

	Cases		Vision unim- paired	Vision im- paired	Total blind- ness	Deaths
	Treated					
Notified	At home	In Hospital				
None						

In reviewing the last five years, it cannot be gainsaid that substantial progress has been made in many directions, but there remains much to be done. Overcrowding, with its many evils, which probably constitutes our greatest difficulty, is being overcome. During the last five years many facilities for open-air enjoyment (which inevitably make for the benefit of the public health) have been provided, and others are contemplated. The visit of a party of London journalists, who were most enthusiastic in their praises of Exmouth, must result in its attractions being still further made known, and it will be agreed that the future of this popular seaside town both as a holiday resort and as an eminently desirable place for permanent residence, is assured.

Appended herewith are tables on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act and the causes of death in 1925.

In conclusion, my best thanks are due to the Clerk, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for their help in the compilation of this report, and to all the members of the Council for their unvarying courtesy.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. BEESLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for
the Urban District of Exmouth.
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in
connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories			
(Including Factory Laundries)	6	2	
Workshops			
(Including Workshop Laundries)	66		
Workplaces			
(Other than Outworkers' premises)			
Total	72	2	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances... ...				
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	1	1		
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1		
Not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101)...				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	2	2		

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES. SECTION 108.

NATURE OF WORK. (1)	Instances (2)	Notices served (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c.	Nil		
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholsters			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Brass and brass articles			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and Grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, &c.			
Artificial flowers			
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c.			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c.			
Textile weaving			
Total	Nil		

(Signature) C. BEESLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.
Date March 30th, 1926.

NOTE.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (s. 132), requires the Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report to the District Council to report specifically on the administration of that Act in workshops and workplaces, and to send a copy of his Annual Report, so far as it deals with this subject, to the Secretary of State (Home Office). If the Annual Report is presented otherwise than in print, it is unnecessary to include in the copy sent to the Home Office the portions which do not relate to factories, workshops, workplaces or homework.

**Causes of Death in Exmouth Urban District,
1925.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.						MALES.	FEMALES
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	74	88
1 Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
2 Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
3 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
4 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
5 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
6 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
7 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
8 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
9 Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
11 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
12 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	13	11
13 Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	11	14
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	11	18
17 Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
18 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
20 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
22 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
24 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
26 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28 Congenital debility and malformation premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
29 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
30 Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
31 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	16
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
<hr/>							
Special Causes (included above)							
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
<hr/>							
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
<hr/>							
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	67	79
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	65	76
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
<hr/>							
POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	13240	13240

